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Defiance in Romania? Look Again, Anderson

Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta have stooped to a new low in their disgusting and totally inaccurate piece "Romania's Defiance." Either they have been fed Romanian Securitate disinformation or the CIA report represents hand-in-glove collaboration in promoting Bucharest's interests.

Anyone even remotely familiar with the Romanian reality knows that Nicolae Ceausescu is one of the world's most hated tyrants who does not enjoy popular support at home. The Romanian people could hardly be worse off after his departure, which will likely come much later than the CIA idiots predicted.

Ceausescu is an orthodox Stalinist who has long done the bidding of Moscow. Naturally he is interested in improving relations with the United States so he can continue to project (as the column so naively did) the myth of being independent and a defiant maverick, as well as picking up nearly a billion dollars in hard currency in America's most unfavorable trade balance.

The full truth of the Soviet-Ceausescu shrewdly calculated game will soon be known for all the world to see.

The saddest commentary is why supposedly objective, moral writers allow themselves to be blindly used by a deceptive and tyrannical ruler like Ceausescu. Certainly both Moscow and Bucharest are pleased that once again their line has appeared in one of the most important newspapers in the United States. Along with the masses of Romanian people, for whom I care deeply, I say shame on Anderson and Van Atta and their sloppy research, which I pray will be discounted for the garbage that it is.

—*David B. Funderburk*

The writer was U.S. ambassador to Romania from 1981 to 1985.